

Immanuel Congregational Church

A Member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)

Written testimony submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee

RE: Support of HB 6633: AN ACT CONCERNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

February 26, 2023

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

We are writing from Immanuel Congregational Church, a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). GHIAA is a network of over 50 diverse congregations across the theological spectrum working together for justice.

We are writing in support of HB 6633. This bill will make our suburbs more inclusive places to live and contribute to economic growth and revitalization of our cities. Modeled after successful legislation in New Jersey and informed by Raj Chetty's research on economic opportunity, this bill has the potential to generate over:

- 240,000 units of sorely needed market rate and affordable units over 10 years
- 63,000 jobs (full time equivalents sustained for ten years)
- \$9.8 Billion in state and local tax revenue
- \$47 Billion in income for Connecticut residents

People of faith such as members of Immanuel Congregational Church hold religious reasons for why it is a moral imperative to break down barriers that cause racial and economic segregation. However, this bill is not only the right thing to do to address Connecticut's affordable housing and housing segregation crises, it is also the smart thing to do to boost our economy overall, especially as we emerge from a global health pandemic. This bill will provide of a set of tools and laws that make sure our zoning and planning systems are fair and equitable. For all these reasons, we support Fair Share Planning and Zoning.

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